

**From:** Ken Kirchner  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/23/02 12:30pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Hello ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to add my voice to those who are displeased with the current proposed settlement with Microsoft. Microsoft is so large and diversified they can easily assimilate any sector of the software market they want. As it was clearly demonstrated in the Internet Explorer versus Netscape Navigator war, you cant compete against a company that can afford to give away its product longer than you can. Microsoft's pockets are too deep for any new software company to try and assault. Microsoft's interpretation of innovation is buying other companies that have innovative products (ex: Visio) instead of producing their own. They are definately the 300 pound gorilla of the industry.

As far as proposed solutions, I am afraid I dont have the sure-fire solution, but I think forcing them to offer free access to their current and future data structures (Microsoft Office documents, Visio files, etc) would at least prevent them from shutting out other software companies by hiding behind proprietary file formats. I'm sure this suggestion needs more scrutiny than I have given it. I think software purchases should be judged on how efficeintly and effortlessly it manipulates your data, not what format it saves it in.

--

Ken Kirchner : kenk@shreve.net  
Assistant System Administrator : Tel (318)222-2638  
ShreveNet, Inc. : Fax (318)213-2650

ShreveNet - Your Premium Internet Service Provider!